

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193169
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CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD TDB (17TH SESSION)

REF: GENEVA 6818

1. IN CONNECTION WITH B GROUP CAUCUS AUGUST 16, DEPARTMENT
WOULD ESPECIALLY APPRECIATE GROUP VIEWS ON G-77 OBJECTIVES
AND MOST LIKELY ISSUES AT FORTHCOMING TDB MEETING. WILL THE
TDB REMAIN ESSENTIALLY A "HOUSEKEEPING" SESSION AS SOME HAVE
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PAGE 02 STATE 193169

PREDICTED? CAN WE IDENTIFY AT THIS POINT THE FOCUS, IF
ANY, FOR THE MEETING?

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, DEPARTMENT SEES POTENTIAL HOTSPOTS
ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

(A) INTERDEPENDENCE: THE U.S. CONTINUES TO OPPOSE THE

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW MACHINERY IN UNCTAD TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND ACTIONS ON TRADE AND MONETARY MATTERS BEING HANDLED ELSEWHERE. WE WONDER, HOWEVER, HOW STRONGLY THE AFRICANS FEEL ABOUT SUCH MEASURE AND WHETHER THERE IS ANY PROSPECT THEY CAN BE INDUCED TO WITHDRAW TD/B/L360.

(B) ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (ECDC): THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECDC COMMITTEE AND THE QUESTION OF EQUALITY OF PARTICIPATION APPEAR TO BE THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES AT THIS STAGE. WHAT ARE B GROUP'S VIEWS ON THE PROSPECTS THAT G-77 WILL SEEK SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE PROVISIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE CONTAINED IN TDB(XVI) RESOLUTION 142? IN THE EVENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE REOPENED ON THE PROVISIONAL ITEMS OF REFERENCE, WOULD B GROUP BE INTERESTED IN A NARROWING OF THE COMMITTEE'S MANDATE TO MORE CLEARLY DEFINE THE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE WHICH UNCTAD MAY PROVIDE LDCs IN STRENGTHENING THEIR MUTUAL COOPERATION. SHOULD THE GROUP TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN THIS DIRECTION IN ANY EVENT? CONCERNING THE EQUALITY OF PARTICIPATION, IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL TO START AN EXCHANGE ON HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED AT THE TDB, SPECIFICALLY THE MOST APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR REAFFIRMING THIS PRINCIPLE (E.G., REVISE ECDC TERMS OF REFERENCE, OR A SEPARATE DECISION).

(C) RATIONALIZATION: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT UNCTAD HAS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 193169

MIND UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM. WE, ON OUR PART, WILL WANT TO LINE UP SOLID GROUP B SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE OF DRAFT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY U.S. ON BEHALF OF GROUP B (TD/B/L473), WHICH EMANATED FROM MEETING LAST APRIL OF WORKING PARTY FOR THE PROGRAM BUDGET. WE SUGGEST SOME DISCUSSION WITHIN B GROUP TO IDENTIFY OTHER POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS.

(D) OF THE REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS, WE WONDER WHETHER SHIPPING AND MULTIMODEL TRANSPORT QUESTIONS MAY PRESENT THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE. WE REMAIN OPPOSED TO A BROADENING OF THE SHIPPING COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE SO AS TO BRING OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORT UNDER ITS PURVIEW. SIMILARLY, WE WOULD OPPOSE TDB ACTION TO CONVENE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY GROUP TO DRAFT A CONTAINERS STANDARDS CONVENTION.

3. AT THIS STAGE WE SEE NO OBVIOUS ISSUES ON THE OTHER AGENDA ITEMS WHICH WOULD BE EXPECTED TO ARISE AT THE TDB. WE WOULD LIKE, HOWEVER, CONFIRMATION IN TALKS WITH B GROUP THAT THIS IMPRESSION IS SOUND, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS COMMODITIES WHERE WE WOULD LIKE MINIMAL DISCUSSION.

4. CONCERNING PROCEDURAL QUESTION, WE SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT THE PRESENT DISTRIBUTION OF ISSUES BETWEEN THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEES COULD BE IMPROVED AND CONCUR IN ANY REASONABLE RE-DISTRIBUTION. WITH REGARD TO COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER THE TERMS OF THESE OFFICERS ARE LIMITED TO THE PRESENT TDB SESSION OR WOULD THEY SERVE AS WELL AS THE 9TH SPECIAL SESSION (PARTS I AND II) AND AT OTHER TDB MEETINGS IF

CALLED. FYI: THE ANSWER HAS A BEARING ON OUR INTEREST ON BUREAU SLOTS.

5. AT THE B GROUP MEETING AUGUST 16, WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT YOU REMIND THE GROUP OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 193169

OFFICIALS MEETING, SEPTEMBER 5-9. WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL FOR THE GROUP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TIME DURING THE TDB (XVII) TO PREPARE A COMMON POSITION FOR THIS MEETING. THE GROUP MIGHT THEREFORE WISH TO ESTABLISH A WORKING PARTY TO THIS END, AND BEGIN COORDINATING ITS VIEWS UPON THE OPENING OF THE 17TH SESSION. OUR HEAD OF DELEGATION, CHARLES MEISSNER, IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THIS EFFORT. VANCE

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